

Office Action indicates Ishikawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,600,455, solves. Therefore, as Prior Art already solves the problem solved by Ishikawa et al., there would not have been motivation to combine Ishikawa et al. with Prior Art to solve this aforementioned problem.

The outstanding Office Action repeats, nearly identically, the previous Office Action mailed February 12, 2001, without commenting on our comments in the response filed August 13, 2001. As applicants have specifically detailed why the cited motivation is not applicable for combining Prior Art and Ishikawa et al., applicants specifically request that any forthcoming Office Action include comments traversing our detailed non-obviousness rationale.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 103(a):

Claims 4-7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over the prior art set forth in the present application on pages 1-5 and FIGS. 11-12 (Prior Art), in view of Ishikawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,600,455. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For completeness, some of the following remarks were also previously submitted in the previous response, and are repeated herein.

As set forth in MPEP 2142, "[t]o establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure."

The outstanding Office Action indicates that it would have been obvious to modify Prior Art, in view of the teaching of Ishikawa et al., to set forth the presently claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner recites that because Ishikawa et al. teaches to partially coarsen prism shaped elements on a transparent member **to reduce stripe patterns**, it would have been obvious to partially coarsen the prism shaped elements in Prior Art, and thus also reduce stripe patterns.

Thus, the Office Action cites Ishikawa et al. for teaching to coarsen prism shaped elements on a transparent member to reduce stripe patterns.

Prior Art sets forth a light control element in a light emitting surface light source. As illustrated in FIGS. 13 and 14, light which enters light control element 5 is redirected in a direction perpendicular to an exiting surface of a light guide plate, **and is thereafter diffused by a diffusing sheet 6**. Diffusing sheet 6 prevents the showing of stripe patterns.

The Office Action indicates that Prior Art would suffer from the same stripe pattern problem that Ishikawa et al. overcomes, and thus there would have been motivation for modifying Prior Art in a similar fashion as set forth in Ishikawa et al.

Specifically, col. 1, line 63, through col. 2, line 4, of Ishikawa et al. recites: "When disposing this transparent member between the surface light source device and the liquid crystal display panel as shown in FIG. 1, such trouble sometimes happens that a direction 1a along which the top lines of the triangle portions are extended...is or lies upon bus lines of the liquid crystal display panel 4, and a stripe pattern as Moire, which is not desired, is generated."

However, as illustrated in FIGS. 13 and 14 of the present application, corresponding to Prior Art, light exiting prism sheet 5 is directly thereafter diffused by light diffusing sheet 6. Thus, in Prior Art, the problem discussed in Ishikawa et al. **is not** relevant, as although the direction "along which the top lines of the triangle portions [is] extended is or lies upon bus lines of the liquid crystal display panel," **the light diffusing sheet of Prior art will diffuse the light exiting the prism sheet sufficiently to prevent the occurrence of the striped lines.** FIG. 14 of the present application, corresponding to Prior Art, illustrates how light striking the top and bottom portions of the prisms on the prism sheet are diffused prior to hitting any liquid crystal display panel.

Thus, the striped line problem discussed in Ishikawa et al. would **not** occur in the system of Prior Art.

Therefore, as the outstanding Office Action indicates that the motivation for modifying Prior Art to have part of prism slopes be roughened, as taught by Ishikawa et al., is to solve the striped line problem discussed in Ishikawa et al., and as Prior Art would not suffer from such a problem, there would not have been motivation for such a modification of Prior Art.

It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn as both Prior Art and Ishikawa et al. fail to suggest or provide any motivation for modifying Prior Art to include the claimed feature of part of repeating projections having a diffusible surface to generate a

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diffused light while light emitted from a light source is radiating within a light control element, as set forth in the independent claims.

In addition, the present specification details an additional problem of "prism portion inward arrangement" of the present invention and of Prior Art. Specifically, the present specification details on page 5, lines 6-32, the problem with prism portions that are arranged in an "inward" arrangement, i.e., that a reflecting sheet can be seen through the prism sheet.

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The outward arrangement of Ishikawa et al. does not suffer from this problem, and thus could not provide a teaching, suggestion, or motivation for modifying Prior Art to include the presently claimed features.

Further, it is noted that Ishikawa et al. and Prior Art are directed to two separate prism type arrangements, each with their own problems and corresponding specific solutions. The present invention, and that as recited in the claims, is directed to solve problems associated with a "prism portion **inward** arrangement," such as that of Prior Art, whereas Ishikawa et al. is directed to solve problems associated with a "prism portion **outward** arrangement." The problems associated with an **inward** prism arrangement of Prior Art are different from the problems associated with an **outward** prism arrangement of Ishikawa et al., and corresponding specific solutions cannot be merely interchanged between the two types of arrangements, as one problem in an outward prism arrangement may not be present in an inward prism arrangement, e.g., the solution provided in Ishikawa et al. is not relevant to Prior Art as Prior Art does not suffer from the same problem.

Again, it is noted that the cited motivation for combining Prior Art with Ishikawa et al. is not applicable, as Prior Art already solves the problem solved by Ishikawa et al.

Therefore, for at least the above, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of claims 4-7 and 9-11 be withdrawn and claims 4-7 and 9-11 be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

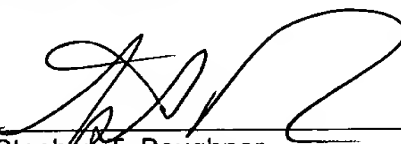
Respectfully submitted,

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